

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1-10, 12, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25, and 27-37, and add new Claim 38 as follows (a complete listing of all the claims appears below):

Claim 1 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus, for communicating via the Internet with an external apparatus, ~~said information processing apparatus~~ comprising:

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acquisition means for acquiring, ~~via the Internet,~~ print setting information from the external apparatus, ~~the print setting information being necessary for generating print request information and including information indicating a plurality of print services provided by a print shop and respective service fees~~ and storing the print setting information in a memory;

page generation means for generating the a print request information based on the print setting information acquired by said acquisition means, without requiring ~~connection to~~ page without connecting to the external apparatus ~~via the Internet; and based on the acquired print setting information and a preview image of print data that is currently being edited;~~

file generation means for generating a print request file according to values input on the print request page; and

print request means for establishing communication, ~~via the Internet,~~ with the external apparatus ~~for transmission of the print request information~~ to send the

generated print request file,

wherein the print request information page is generated by said generation
~~means before said print request means establishes~~ the communication with the external
apparatus, and a printing fee quotation for a desired print service is calculated based on the
~~service fees included in the print setting information~~ is established by said print request
means.

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Claim 2 (currently amended): An ~~information processing~~ apparatus
according to claim 1, wherein the print setting information indicates an output style in
which output is available at a printer that executes printing based on the print request
information.

Claim 3 (currently amended): An ~~information processing~~ apparatus
according to claim 1, further comprising:

storage means for storing the print setting information,

wherein, ~~before communicating with the external apparatus using said the~~
~~print request means, the print setting information stored in said the~~ storage means is
~~examined to determine~~ checked, before communicating with the external apparatus, to
determine whether it is newer than the print setting information ~~is newer than print setting~~
~~information that~~ which is available at the external apparatus.

Claim 4 (currently amended): An ~~information processing~~ apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

derivation means for, before communication is established with the external apparatus by said print request means, using the print setting information to derive expenses that are to be incurred to obtain printing results.

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Claim 5 (currently amended): An ~~information processing~~ apparatus according to claim 4, wherein, before communication is established with the external apparatus using said print request means, said derivation means uses print setting information available at the external apparatus to re-derive the expenses that are to be incurred to obtain the printing results.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An ~~information processing~~ apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the print setting information is HTML data generated for the external apparatus, and

wherein the external apparatus manages the print setting information for each of at least one output shop.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An ~~information processing~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said page generation means ~~is adapted to perform~~ performs a

peruser plug-in function[[,]] and uses an application communication function of an OS to generate the print request information for page of a document that is currently being edited by a document editor.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An ~~information processing~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, for communication purposes, a dial-up connection is used to connect the external apparatus to the Internet.

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Claim 9 (currently amended): An ~~information processing~~ apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~network browsing means for communicating with a server across a network and for displaying data received from the server;~~

~~second acquisition means for acquiring a template file separately from the print setting information, from the server and storing the print setting information at a client computer; and~~

~~display data generation means with a CGI function for rewriting the print setting information stored at the client computer and template data acquired separately from the print setting information to generate browsing display data, in which the print setting information stored at the client computer is displayed within the template data;~~

~~wherein the browsing display data is generated by inserting the print setting information into a part of the template data and is displayed by said network browsing~~

means file is generated with reference to the template file.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method₁ for controlling an information processing apparatus₁ ~~that communicates;~~ for communicating via the Internet₁ with an external apparatus, said method comprising:

an acquisition step₁ of acquiring, ~~via the Internet;~~ print setting information from the external apparatus, ~~the print~~ and storing the print setting information being necessary ~~for generating print request information and including information indicating a plurality of print services provided by a print shop and respective service fees~~ in a memory;

a page generation step₁ of generating ~~the a~~ print request information based on the print setting information acquired at said acquisition step; page without requiring ~~connection to~~ connecting to the external apparatus ~~via the Internet;~~ and based on the acquired print setting information and a preview image of print data that is currently being edited;

a file generation step, of generating a print request file according to values input on the print request page; and

a print request step₁ of establishing communication, ~~via the Internet;~~ with the external apparatus ~~for transmission of~~ to send the generated print request information file,

wherein the print request information page is generated at said generation step before the communication with the external apparatus is established at said print

request step, ~~and a printing fee quotation for a desired print service is calculated based on the service fees included in the print setting information.~~

Claim 11 (previously presented): A method according to claim 10, wherein the print setting information indicates an output style in which output is available at a printer that executes printing based on the print request information.

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Claim 12 (currently amended): A method according to claim 10, further comprising[[:]] a storage step, of storing the print setting information, wherein the print setting information stored at said storage step is checked, before communicating with the external apparatus, ~~at said print request step, the print setting information stored at said storage step is examined~~ to determine whether it is newer than the print setting information ~~is newer than print setting information that~~ which is available at the external apparatus.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A method according to claim 10, further comprising:

a derivation step of, before communication is established with the external apparatus at said print request step, using the print setting information to derive expenses that are to be incurred to obtain printing results.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A method according to claim 13,

wherein, before communication is established with the external apparatus at said print request step, at said derivation step, print setting information available at the external apparatus is used to re-derive the expenses that are to be incurred to obtain the printing results.

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Claim 15 (previously presented): A method according to claim 10,
wherein the print setting information is HTML data generated for the
external apparatus, and
wherein the external apparatus manages the print setting information for
each of at least one output shop.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method according to claim 10,
wherein said page generation step ~~performs~~ includes performing a peruser
plug-in function[[,]] and ~~wherein~~ uses an application communication function of an OS is
~~used~~ to generate the print request ~~information for~~ page of a document that is currently
being edited by a document editor.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A method according to claim 10,
wherein, for communication purposes, the external apparatus and the information
processing apparatus are linked together via the Internet by a dial-up connection.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method ~~for controlling information processing apparatus that includes network browsing means for communicating with a server across a network and for displaying data received from the server, said method according to claim 10, further comprising:~~

an a second acquisition step of acquiring ~~print setting information from the server and storing a template file separately from the print setting information, at a client computer, and a display data generation step of performing a CGI function for rewriting the print setting information stored at the client computer and template data acquired separately from the print setting information to generate browsing display data, in which the print setting information stored at the client computer is displayed within the template data,~~

wherein ~~the browsing display data is generated by inserting the print setting information into a part of the template data and is displayed by the network browsing means~~ file is generated with reference to the template file.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium storing a program ~~for implementing a method of~~ for controlling an information processing apparatus ~~that communicates, for communicating via the Internet[[,]] with an external apparatus, the method~~ said program comprising:

an acquisition step₁ of acquiring, ~~via the Internet,~~ print setting information from the external apparatus, and storing the print setting information being necessary for

~~generating print request information and including information indicating a plurality of print services provided by a print shop and respective service fees in a memory;~~

~~a page generation step, of generating the a print request information based on the print setting information acquired at said acquisition step, page without requiring connection to connecting to the external apparatus ~~via the Internet~~ based on the acquired print setting information and a preview image of print data that is currently being edited;~~

~~a file generation step, of generating a print request file according to values input on the print request page; and~~

~~a print request step, of establishing communication, ~~via the Internet,~~ with the external apparatus ~~for transmission of to send~~ the generated print request information file,~~

~~wherein the print request information page is generated at said generation step before the communication with the external apparatus is established at said print request step, and a printing fee quotation for a desired print service is calculated based on the service fees included in the print setting information.~~

Claim 20 (previously presented): A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19, wherein the print setting information indicates an output style in which output is available at a printer that executes printing based on the print request information.

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Claim 21 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19, ~~wherein the method further comprises~~ comprising a storage step, of storing the print setting information, wherein, ~~before communicating with the external apparatus at said print request step,~~ the print setting information stored at said storage step is ~~examined to determine~~ checked, before communicating with the external apparatus, to determine whether it is newer than the print setting information ~~is newer than print setting information that~~ which is available at the external apparatus.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19, wherein ~~the method~~ said program further comprises:
a derivation step of, before communication is established with the external apparatus at said print request step, using the print setting information to derive expenses that are to be incurred to obtain printing results.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 22, wherein, before communication is established with the external apparatus at said print request step, at said derivation step, print setting information available at the external apparatus is used to re-derive the expenses that are to be incurred to obtain the printing results.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A computer-readable memory medium

according to claim 19,

wherein the print setting information is HTML data generated for the external apparatus, and

wherein the external apparatus manages the print setting information for each of at least one output shop.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19,

wherein said page generation step ~~performs~~ includes performing a ~~peruser~~ browser plug-in function[[,]] and ~~wherein~~ employs an application communication function of an OS ~~is used~~ to generate the print request ~~information for~~ page of a document that is currently being edited by a document editor.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19, wherein, for communication purposes, the external apparatus and the information processing apparatus are linked together via the Internet by a dial-up connection.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium ~~storing a program for implementing a method of controlling an information processing apparatus that includes network browsing means for communicating with a server across a~~

network and for displaying data received from the server, the method according to claim 19, further comprising:

an a second acquisition step, of acquiring print setting information from the server and storing a template file separately from the print setting information, at a client computer; and

a display data generation step of performing a CGI function for rewriting the print setting information stored at the client computer and template data acquired separately from the print setting information to generate browsing display data, in which the print setting information stored at the client computer is displayed within the template data,

wherein the browsing display data is generated by inserting the print setting information into a part of the template data and is displayed by the network browsing means file is generated with reference to the template file.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A computer program product embodying a computer program for ~~implementing a method of~~ controlling an information processing apparatus, ~~that communicates, for communicating via the Internet[[,]]~~ with an external apparatus, the method said program comprising:

an acquisition step, of acquiring, ~~via the Internet,~~ print setting information from the external apparatus, and storing the print setting information ~~being necessary for~~ generating print request information and including information indicating a plurality of

~~print services provided by a print shop and respective service fees in a memory;~~

~~a page generation step, of generating the a print request information based on the print setting information acquired at said acquisition step, page without requiring connection to connecting to the external apparatus ~~via the Internet~~ based on the acquired print setting information and a preview image of print data that is currently being edited;~~

~~a file generation step, of generating a print request file according to values input on the print request page; and~~

~~a print request step of establishing communication, ~~via the Internet,~~ with the external apparatus for transmission of the print request information to send the generated print request file,~~

~~wherein the print request information page is generated at said generation step before the communication with the external apparatus is established at said print request step, and a printing fee quotation for a desired print service is calculated based on the service fees included in the print setting information.~~

Claim 29 (currently amended): An ~~information processing~~ apparatus according to Claim [[9]] 1, wherein the print setting information page includes information indicating a paper size supported at a print shop.

Claim 30 (currently amended): An ~~information processing~~ apparatus according to Claim [[9]] 1, wherein said acquisition means acquires ~~[[a]]~~ plurality kinds of

~~pieces of print setting server information corresponding to respective print shops designated by a user, and~~

~~wherein said display data generation means generates the browsing display data, which includes a shop and the print setting page includes a list for selection of the print shops corresponding to the plurality of ~~pieces of print setting information acquired by said acquisition means server.~~~~

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Claim 31 (currently amended): An ~~information processing apparatus~~ according to Claim ~~[[9]]~~ 1, further comprising:

second acquisition means for acquiring a template file separately from the print setting information; and

preview generating generation means for generating a print preview image, wherein ~~said display data~~ the page generation means ~~rewrites~~ updates the template ~~data~~ file such that the generated print preview image is displayed within the template ~~data~~.

Claim 32 (currently amended): A method according to Claim ~~[[18]]~~ 10, wherein the print setting ~~information~~ page includes information indicating a paper size supported at a print shop.

Claim 33 (currently amended): A method according to Claim ~~[[18]]~~ 10,

wherein said acquisition step acquires ~~[[a]] plurality of pieces~~ kinds of print ~~setting server~~ information corresponding to respective print shops designated by a user, and ~~wherein said display data generation step generates the browsing display data, which includes a shop~~ and the print setting page includes a list for selection of the print shops corresponding to the plurality of pieces of print setting information acquired at said acquisition step server.

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Claim 34 (currently amended): A method according to Claim ~~[[18]]~~ 10, further comprising:

a second acquisition step, of acquiring a template file separately from the print setting information; and

a preview generating step, of generating a print preview image,

wherein, ~~at said display data~~ the page generation step~~[[,]]~~ updates the template ~~data is rewritten~~ file such that the generated print preview image is displayed within the template ~~data~~.

Claim 35 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim ~~[[27]]~~ 19, wherein the print setting ~~information~~ page includes information indicating a paper size supported at a print shop.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium

according to Claim [[27]] 19, wherein said acquisition step acquires [[a]] plurality of pieces kinds of print setting server information ~~corresponding to respective print shops designated by a user, and wherein said display data generation step generates the browsing display data, which includes a shop~~ and the print setting page includes a list for selection of the print shops corresponding to the plurality of pieces of print setting information acquired at said acquisition step server.

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Claim 37 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim [[27]] 19, further comprising:

~~wherein the method further comprises a preview generating~~ a second acquisition step, of acquiring a template file separately from the print setting information;
and

a preview generation step, of generating a print preview image, and
~~wherein, at said display data~~ said page generation step[[,]] updates the template data is rewritten file such that the generated print preview image is displayed within the template ~~data~~.

Claim 38 (new): An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
means for detecting an update time of the print setting information stored in the memory;
means for detecting an update time of the print setting information managed

by the external apparatus;

means for comparing the detected update times; and

means for regenerating the print setting page in accordance with a

comparison result.